

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

The regular meeting of the California Academy of Medicine was held on Monday evening, November 27, 1911, in the library of the San Francisco County Medical Society. The following scientific program was presented:

1. A Report of a Case of Raynaud's Disease. W. W. Kerr. Discussed by Drs. Schmitt, Eloesser, Terry, Twitchell, McClenahan, Kerr.
2. Multiple Papillomata of the Larynx; a Report of Two Cases. E. C. Sewall. Discussed by Drs. Sherman and Sewall.
3. Demonstration of a Specimen of Salivary Calculus. J. G. Morrissey. Discussed by Dr. Sherman.

Dr. W. F. Snow and Dr. E. C. Fleischner were elected to membership.

Refreshments were served at the close of the program.

COOPER COLLEGE OF SCIENCE.

The Cooper College Science Club held its regular monthly meeting on Monday evening, December 4, 1911. The scientific program was as follows:

1. Demonstration of Cases of Naevi treated by Carbon Dioxid Snow. Dr. G. H. Mize. Discussed by Drs. Eaves, Stillman, Haas, Mize.
2. Demonstration of Medical Cases. Dr. W. F. Shaller. Discussed by Drs. McClenahan and Shaller.
3. Case of Hookworm Infection apparently acquired in San Francisco. Dr. W. C. Alvarez.

The following recommendations made by the Board of Directors were adopted:

1. That the Cooper College Science Club requests the Medical Department of Stanford University for the same privileges that it has enjoyed from Cooper Medical College.
2. That the name of the Cooper College Science Club be changed to "The Cooper Clinical Society."
3. That the form of government and qualifications for membership remain as heretofore.

At the close of the meeting refreshments were served.

UNJUSTIFIABLE CRUELTY.

In December, a Dr. Johnson, connected with the Pacific Wassermann Laboratories, was arrested by Humane Officer Hennesy for cruelty to an animal, to wit: cutting off a goat's ear in order to secure blood for laboratory work. The case was heard before Police Judge Shortall, and at the first hearing several doctors were present, among them Dr. Hunsaker and Dr. V. C. Thomas, and some of these gentlemen stated that anesthetics were never administered to animals at any college or hospital in the country. At the second hearing, a certificate was presented from Dr. A. W. Lee, of the University of California, showing that ether is always used prior to withdrawing blood from the jugular vein of a sheep, and for all similar work. Dr. Dudley Tait testified to the general use of anesthetics for such work, the effort of the A. M. A. to promulgate all humane treatment of animals in experimental work, and stated that, in his opinion, "nothing will more retard the progress of medicine and its benefits to humanity than the introduction of cruel methods in animal work." The Judge stated he had consulted a distinguished surgeon who expressed the opinion that Wassermann tests were invaluable, but that it would be more cruel to give an animal an anesthetic than merely to cut off its ear! This is certainly a most curious opinion. The Judge complimented Officer Hennesy upon his diligence, but dismissed the case, stating that from the conflicting testimony he could not tell whether there had been any cruelty or not. It is just these rare cases, where some one without due regard to the important nature and consequences of the work he is doing, is cruel to animals, that furnish the am-

munition for the antivivisectionists. As Dr. Tait justly says, we should be more particular to avoid even the semblance of cruelty in animal work than in human surgery.

A San Francisco paper, under date of Dec. 9th, 1911, printed the following:

"Court Gets Goat's Goat."

"Five physicians and one scientist appeared before Police Judge Shortall yesterday morning to testify whether or not it is cruelty to animals to clip a goat's ear to get blood for experimental purposes.

"Dr. Dudley Tait of St. Francis hospital stood out alone against the others and insisted that an anesthetic ought to be used on the goat. Other physicians insisted that the anesthetic spoiled the experiment. The other physicians were: Dr. Walter Coffee of the Southern Pacific hospital, Dr. Charles Clark, Dr. H. W. Hunsaker, Dr. Verin Thomas. Incidentally Dr. Tait told the court that every hospital in the city was trying to get hold of goats for experimental purposes.

"Edward Johnson, bacteriologist and chemist for the United States government, was on trial for cruelty to animals for clipping the ears of a goat. The court dismissed the case."

DIAGNOSTIC TABLE.

After Hoag's "Health Index of Children."

The "Sage Foundation" has had printed 5000 copies of this table.

Teachers should be on the watch for the following symptom groups. The disorders which give rise to them make for mechanical inefficiencies and call for medical attention:

Disorders of Nose, Throat and Ear.

Mouth-breathing, prominent upper teeth, loud breathing, nasal voice, catarrh, running nose, frequent colds, sore throat, offensive breath, cough, blank expression, slow mentality, deafness, poor physical development, earache, discharge, inattention, poor spelling, watching of lips, slow progress, headache.

Eye Disorders and Defects.

Sore eyes of any kind, styes, congested eyes, crossed eye, squinting, headache, peculiar postures when reading, holding book too near face, poor spelling or reading, dizziness.

Teeth Defects.

Decay of teeth, discoloration, crooked teeth, prominent teeth, offensive breath, poor articulation, broken teeth, mal-nutrition.

Contagious Diseases.

Pallor, flushed face, eruptions, scratching, sleepiness, lassitude, vomiting, headache, cough, running nose, congested eyes.

Nervous Disorders.

Inability to hold object well, spasmodic movements, twitching of eyes, face or any part of the body, irritability, fits, bad temper, fainting, nail biting, undue emotion of any sort, frequent requests to "go out," timidity, stammering, cruelty, perverted tastes, moroseness, solitary habits, undue embarrassment, undue activity, misbehavior, sex perversions.

Nutritional and General Disturbances.

Pallor, emaciation, enlarged glands in neck, puffiness of face or eyes, shortness of breath, lassitude, perverted tastes (e. g. foods), slow mentality, peculiar or faulty postures, under development, excessive fat, vicious personal habits, low endurance power, irritability, disinclination to play, fatigue.

Defects of the Feet.

Walking "pigeon toed," a shuffling, inelastic walk, toeing markedly out, advancing foot by exaggerated knee action, long axes of foot and leg meet at unusually wide angles, shifting from foot to foot, standing on outer edge of feet, locking knees, leaning against wall or desk, shoes run over at either side, front of heel worn down, outer and back part of heel worn down, wearing out of soles asymmetrically, congestion of the feet, swelling, puffiness, excessive perspiration, callouses, twitching of the foot muscles.

Incorrect Posture.

Unequal height of shoulders, standing on sides of feet, prominent abdomen, flat chest, curved back, stooping.

HITCHCOCK LECTURES.

The Hitchcock Lectures in the University of California will be given this year by Dr. Richard M. Pearce, professor of Research Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Pearce is well known to all who are interested in the advancement of scientific medicine in America, not only through his own contributions to various subjects connected with bacteriology and pathology, but through the positions which he has held as Professor of Pathology successively in the Albany Medical School, New York University, and the University of Pennsylvania. The chair of Research Medicine which Professor Pearce now holds is unique, but is undoubtedly indicative of the most characteristic tendency of modern medical science, namely, its service in connection with the practical problems which confront the clinician.

Dr. Pearce's lectures will begin on the evening of January 22nd and will be given on successive days, and deal with the following aspects of the history of research in medicine: "Antiquity to 1800—the Efforts of Isolated Investigators"; "The Development of Laboratories for the Medical Sciences"; "Pasteur and the Rise of Bacteriology"; "Present Day Methods and Problems"; "Medical Research in American Universities—Its Present Facilities, Needs and Opportunities."

BOOK REVIEWS

Nostrums and Quackery. Pub. by Jour. of Amer. Med. Ass'n. Chicago, 1911.

Perusing this volume one is impressed with the expediency of every member of the profession giving a copy a prominent place in his waiting room, so that those who wait may read. By this means the public may be imbued with a proper feeling of nausea occasioned by the fakirs who feed on the physical ills of communities. It is a collection mostly of reprints from several medical journals, particularly the Journal of the A. M. A., containing interesting, thorough, and certainly startling exposures of the patent frauds, which burden the eye and insult the intelligence in the advertising media of this country. Of particular local interest is the article on Viavi, reprinted from our State Journal of 1907, in which we see our prominent Law brothers figured in a pitiful and even criminal light.

As a ready book of reference concerning the compositions of the various preparations and the methods of their exploiters, it is a most delightful addition to our shelves. It cannot be too strongly urged that each one of us should know this work well for by that knowledge we can speak, fortified by facts. Read it and own it.

H. I. W.

The Origin of Life.* By H. Charlton Bastian, M. D., F. R. S., Emeritus Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine, University College, London. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London, 1911.

This treatise embodies a memoir submitted to the Royal Society of London on the Origin of Life question but not considered suitable for acceptance by that body, with the result that the author has produced it in book form. Heterodoxy well supported is often a potent factor in the advancement of knowledge, but heterodoxy poorly supported may cut a sorry figure. In the latter form it is here presented.

Students interested in the question of the spontaneous origin of life will remember the author as

the picturesque figure supporting this doctrine in the famous controversy with Huxley and Tyndall in 1870, and later with Pasteur. Doubtless the majority of readers will have assumed that the question was closed and the combatants all at rest. Such is almost the case but not quite; all the warriors of four decades ago have passed away with the exception of Bastian, and all but he were convinced he was wrong and no reader of to-day will have occasion to feel that their judgment was not sound, after a perusal of this book. The discussion has a curious flavor of the quaint and naive in places, as, for instance, when "the germinality" of fluids is spoken of. It almost recalls the alchemists. But again one encounters the views of eminent modern scientists correctly quoted, such a mixture is it of the old and the new, of sound and unsound.

The author frankly admits that he believes in heterogenesis, the de novo origin of life (and, incidentally, contagious disease) and postulates that silicon probably wholly or in part replaces carbon in the composition of the protoplasm of living organisms. Adequate evidence in support of any single one of these doctrines is wanting.

Glass tubes containing solutions of "ammoniac" phosphate, dilute phosphoric acid, liquor ferri pernitratris and sodium silicate or colloidal silica were prepared, hermetically sealed and heated to temperatures ranging from 100° C. to 145° C. for periods of from five to thirty minutes. The tubes were then allowed to stand in the sunlight or shade for long intervals of time and finally opened. Smears made when the tubes were opened were examined under the microscope with a quarter-inch objective and a number 6 eyepiece. The findings in these smears included torulae, bacteria (masses of bacilli and cocci), so-called fungus germs and molds. These findings are regarded by Bastian as being conclusive proof of the spontaneous origin of life. That the questions of contaminations and thermal death points are touched upon in only desultory fashion will be at once realized when one thinks of the nature of these experiments. No cultures were made, no stained preparations, no controls of thermal deaths of resistant spore-bearing bacteria; in a word, no attempt to arrange an adequate experiment.

Dr. Bastian would have served himself and the reading public the better had he gracefully accepted the hint of the Royal Society.

J. G. FITZGERALD, M. D.

Collected Papers by the Staff of St. Mary's Hospital, Mayo Clinic, Vol. II. Published by W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, 1911.

This, the second volume of collected papers by the staff of the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minn., offers in easily accessible form the published articles emanating from that source during the year 1910. Altogether, there are fifty-four articles, varying in length from pages 5 to 42, and in subject matter from the exhaustive study of W. C. MacCarty on the "Pathology and Clinical Significance of Gastric Ulcer," to Will Mayo's opinion of the climate of Minnesota expressed in his "Notes on Italian Surgery."

Coming from a clinic where so much of the modern gastro-intestinal surgery has been developed one would expect to find a good portion of the volume devoted to a consideration of the diseases affecting the alimentary tract. Such an expectation is abundantly realized. Thus there are 28 papers dealing with conditions affecting the alimentary canal and its associated viscera. Dealing as they do with symptomatology, diagnosis, pathology and treatment, they form a useful and fairly complete text of the subjects treated.

The article by Plummer on "The Technic of the Examination of Esophageal Lesions" well illustrated by reproductions of X-ray plates and diagrams, and the one by C. H. Mayo on the "Diagnosis and Treat-

* Being an Account of Experiments with Certain Superheated Saline Solutions in Hermetically Sealed Vessels.